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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

MAERTENS, et al. Atty. Ref.: 2551-126

Appl. No. 09/899,046 Group: 1648

Filed: July 6, 2001 Examiner: WORTMAN

For: NEW SEQUENCE OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS GENOTYPES AND THEIR USE AS
THERAPEUTIC AND DIAGNOSTIC AGENTS

* * * * *

September 22, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE

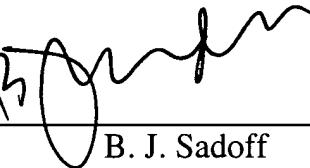
Responsive to the Official Action dated August 22, 2003, the applicants elect, with traverse, the subject matter of the Examiner's Group I, for further prosecution in the above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are requested as the subject matter of the Examiner's four Groups are all classified by the Patent Office in the same class and subclass, as acknowledged by the Examiner in the Office Action of August 22, 2003. The identical classification of the subject matter is indicative of the subject matter not being recognized as defining separately patentable subject matter. Moreover, the search of a single class and subclass for all the claimed subject matter would presumably not require an undue burden of the Examiner.

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An early and favorable Action on the merits of all the claimed subject matter is
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

B. J. Sadoff
Reg. No. 36,663

BJS:plb
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100